

Andrew Jackson to William Charles Cole Claiborne, February 6, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE.1

1 Copy. For Jackson's controversy with the legislature, consult Bassett's *Jackson*, I. 223.

New Orleans, February 6, 1815.

Sir: The Legislature of your state being about to close their session, it is due to their character, as well as to those interests over which I am bound to watch, that I should be furnished, before they rise, with the evidence taken by the Committee appointed to enquire into the causes which, during the action of the 28th Decbr, gave rise to information, charging that body with treasonable designs

If a charge so injurious has been *falsely* made by any officer of my army, it is necessary that proper proceedings be immediately had against him; and the innocence of every member of that house, whom in the camp he has so vilely aspersed, be made apparent to the world. On the other hand, if the charge be *true* as regards *any* member or members of that assembly, it is equally necessary that proper proceedings be forthwith instituted against *him* or *them* ; as well that the guilty may receive punishment, as the innocent escape suspicion. If I can be furnished with the proceedings of the House in relation to this matter it may save *me* the necessity of going into an investigation which I consider so important.

Very respectfully I have the honor to be yr. obt st